

Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Words/verses may be made bold/numbered for emphasis.

Topic This Month: Romans 1

Paul's Process of Prayer

Romans 1:8-14 is the first prayer given to the Body of Christ, providing an example, with elements to include as we pray. (See May's issue.) Romans 1 also contains a 'helping process,' that is, Paul applies Romans doctrine in this prayer with steps for thinking and living grace as an ambassador: *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ...in Christ's stead..." (II Cor. 5:20).*

- 1) Vs. 1-7:** Paul realizes a few things: he is a worker together with God, Christ is his power, and these saints are the called, beloved of God.
- 2) Vs. 8:** Paul thanks God, having a great love and appreciation for the saints, knowing each member is a part of his own Body.
- 3) Vs 9:** The saints are so in Paul's heart, it is expressed in the form of praying constantly as God's servant, to be used to meet their needs.
- 4) Vs 10:** He prays decisions will prosper as the Word effectually works.
- 5) Vs 11:** He thinks about what he has been taught of God, focusing his heart and mind on what the saints need to be established. Then in godly love, he considers what the assembly needs for their edification.
- 6) Vs. 12:** He realizes the mutual benefit to living his role as ambassador and teacher, knowing the eternal profit for them, but also working the doctrine within him. All this provides mutual comfort and love.
- 7) Vs 13-14:** Paul remains determined to be used of God, open to find alternatives when hindrances occur. He decides to write a letter to the Roman saints to meet their needs and establish them. Paul realizes the godly love working in him is not only for the Romans, but that he's a debtor to love all, motivating him to boldly teach the gospel of Christ.

A current life example may help you apply the above steps.

A friend has a terrible car accident, is discouraged, and unable to walk:

Steps 1-3) You recall who you are in Christ and His power, thanking God for the opportunity to minister to your friend, who is a Body member, closer than family. You consider how to help, praying constantly about his situation, but also his spiritual, emotional, and physical needs.

Steps 4-5) You make your requests known to God and meditate on and consider the Word stirred in your inner man. As insight is gained, you also think about the saint's needs & how you can be God's tool to help.

Steps 6-7) The Word renews your mind, generating love, determination, and ideas to meet the needs of this saint in Christ's stead.

In this prayer process we see the thinking steps of how prayer works. The Spirit works sound teaching and godly love within, motivating us to think it out to act as an ambassador. We become God's instrument to love, support, and help members of the Body (Rom. 6:13). Actually, this process is a simple one, applying basic teaching in Romans 6-8, & 12. As we yield in God's love, the Spirit teaches us how to live godly.

Communication: Key in a Believer

A central issue to be God's ambassador is communication. From birth forward, a person learns how best to get his needs met and to relate with others. So too, as Christians mature, interactions become increasingly important. Do we value each individual and their needs? Do we take time to really hear what others say and individualize the way we express ourselves to edify them? This is a way to manifest Christ in selfless love.

God desires all saints to grow and be established in the basics, as stated in Romans 1:11. So, what does being established look like when interacting in the Body? Examples in Romans 12:

-Not high-minded: *"...not to think of himself more highly than he ought..." (Vs, 3)*

-Being one Body, having differences: *"...we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office." (Vs. 4)*

-Know all are in Christ/connected: *"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." (Vs. 5)*

-Have honest, godly interactions: *"Let love be without dissimulation..." (Vs. 9)*

-Manifest brotherly love: *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." (Vs. 10)*

This article begins a series on relationships between saints. It will include general recommendations, but also specifics to particular situations and interactions. Feel free to email questions and suggestions.

To Do: Reflect upon your own relationships as His ambassador. Paul reveals challenges that can often arise: *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that 1) ye all speak the same thing, and 2) that there be no divisions among you; but that 3) ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (I Corinthians 1:10)*



Search it out!

Romans 1: How to Section Off a Chapter

Examine verses!



Each chapter in the Bible can be broken up into topical subdivisions, building on the prior section, progressing the reader in understanding. It is written in a precise way and strategically lays one component of doctrine onto the last one. This is the study tool that will be examined this month. (The tool is taken from page 26 of "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools," a resource now available on Amazon.) Use it to find the topic changes in Romans 1.

1. Try to section off Romans 1: Notice subject changes, also called subtopics. A helping word i.e. for, wherefore, therefore, so, etc. can flag the reader to a topic change. _____
2. Read each section listed and label each with the general topic you perceive Paul is addressing:

- Verses 1-7: _____
 Verses 8-12: _____
 Verses 13-17: _____
 Verses 18-23: _____
 Verses 24-32: _____

3. Skim Chapter 1 and notice how it introduces the reader to a few basic issues. What are some things it teaches the reader about Paul himself, prayer, God, man, and sin? _____

5. Go on to I Corinthians 1 and see if you can find the helping words that will assist you to section off this chapter. List the helping words and sections below:

Do You Live as 'the Called of Jesus Christ?'

"Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ." Romans 1:6

A saint is one who believes that the blood of Christ has paid for their sins. Christ redeemed them (bought their freedom) by His blood: *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."* (Rom. 3:23-24). The unbeliever (natural man) follows after his father Adam, who yielded unto Satan. From the moment he sinned in Genesis 3, Adam's spirit died and sin became a barrier: *Isaiah 59:2 says, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."*

Adam's offspring, every living person, is born after his likeness: *"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth."* (Gen. 5:3) We can rejoice, giving glory to God that He sent His Son to pay for all our sin. Christ became the perfect sacrifice to solve this grave problem. *"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (a fully satisfying sacrifice) through faith in his blood..."* (Rom. 3:25) All we do is believe. *Romans 1-5* teaches us about man's sin, God's provision, how we become just before God, and to be confident in our eternal life in Christ.

The story doesn't stop here. While a saint can choose to walk like an unbeliever, God desires us to live a new life, as *"...the called of Jesus Christ."* Paul wrote *Romans* to establish us in the faith (Rom 1:11) and teach us to function as who God made us. He didn't save us just so we can avoid the Lake of Fire. It is a glorious benefit, but He wants for us to grow spiritually in our new relationship with Christ: *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."* (Eph. 4:15)

God also longs for us to have sweet fellowship with Him as our Father and walk along side Him to work together in His business as His ambassadors: *"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."* (Rom. 12:11) So then, we have the great privilege to live differently, knowing we are a new creature and a part of God's plan and purpose on this earth. *"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."* (I Cor. 3:9) It all depends on grace... free-will choices.

Read the Word, think on these things, and purpose to live it by faith!

Having Pleasure in Evil

Romans 1:28-32 can be a hard section to read, especially Verse 32: *“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”* The entire passage summarizes man’s evil devolution, when he goes his own way.

Saints can quietly stand on the sidelines, watch, and actually be a part of Satan’s ‘course of this world,’ participating to some degree without realizing it or even caring. Satan’s grievous plan is to blind, trick, and entice. *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them.”* (II Cor. 4:4)

As believers, if WE believe not, we also will be blinded to the Truth of Paul’s doctrine. In order NOT to follow the unsaved in ungodliness, what can we do? Stay in the Word by faith, renew our minds, and be watchful and self-aware. *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”* (II Cor. 4:6) We have access to Him, He is Light.

As we yield and believe the sound doctrine deposited in our inner man, we can stand apart from this evil world to be ambassadors. An ambassador is simply God’s representative. *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”* (II Corinthians 4:7)

His Ambassador... Even in Perilous Times



Man’s evil ways are all around us, just as described in Romans 1:21-32: *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind...”* (Verse 28) Man continues to follow the course of this world, proving God’s Word true: *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come...Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.”* (II Tim. 3:1,12-14) We’re NOT to join ourselves to them.

God’s wrath is against: *“...all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”* (Romans 1:18) Yet, for now, God is longsuffering and manifesting His great love, mercy, and grace. He has left us here for a purpose, as His ambassadors, so Christ can shine His power and wisdom through us, even in life’s difficulties.

Stay in the Word to be prepared; believe every word, yielding to live it. Be wise: *“But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”* (I Cor. 5:11) We are not to entangle ourselves with this world, or unto saints who live contrary to who they are, and the Truth.

II Timothy 2:20-21 goes further to address a ‘great house’ (religious system), some with vessels of honor, others of dishonor, affected by man’s ways, the world, and Satan. However, *“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.”*

As we yield to sound doctrine, we’re taught how to function. Thus, be aware and separate from some things: 1) This present evil world and the lusts of the flesh. 2) Saints who live contrary to who they are in Christ. 3) The false religious system. While we can expect to suffer persecution as we are left here on earth, we are to stay focused, continuing in the things we learn, being confident in God’s power and wisdom.

We can trust God to walk by faith, holding fast to sound words. *“...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.”* (Rom. 14:5) Read and yield, being led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14). God will prepare our hearts to endure and to be ambassadors: *“For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”* (Eph. 6:20)

Christian Life Coach Support Services
 Writers/editors: Brian and Deborah Johnson
 (804) 519-1210 - lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com
 Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

Stamp

To:

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)

A Personal Testimony

How GRACE Changed My Life

by Deborah Garner

GRACE is an amazing life changing word. But, it's more than a word. 'Grace' liberates. Today, applying rules and "if/then" processes of life (i.e. Deut. 4, 5, 17, 27) are a result of man-made religion. This legalistic lifestyle stole the joy of life from me and my family. My husband understood the 'grace' I couldn't grasp. As he was releasing our children to grow and learn, I was fretting, setting new rules, and controlling to the point that my son (age 14) cried, "Mom, I've tried and tried and I cannot live the life that pleases you and God." He wanted to honor God with his life, but he just felt he didn't have what it takes; I didn't have it either. I cried, "Son, please don't give up," because I did not know what else to say. Today, I am able to respond to that desperate cry with a solution. The solution is 'grace.'

Over the last 10 years, while studying the book of Romans with Deborah Johnson, the revelation of 'grace' unfolded and offered me life. Part of our time together was working in 'life's lab.' Each week we'd explore 'grace' opportunities from my previous week and talk about what 'grace' looks like in the situations I'd be facing. I'd put my 'grace' options to work one week and we'd celebrate 'grace's' results the next. 'Grace' changed my relationship with myself, God, and others. As I dug into and applied His Word, life took on a beautiful new perspective. Joy returned to my life, sustaining me even in new trials. I no longer worked out on the 'legalistic treadmill' of life.

Legalistically applying God's Word leads to failure, bitterness, and even death to hopes, dreams, and life itself. I've learned that choosing God's way leads to life. 'Choice' is a 'grace' word. Take time to develop a personal relationship with God and apply his 'grace' to the situations in your life. You will begin to truly live, love, and laugh again. What's left? Living a life of gratitude and sharing the truths that liberate us with others. AMAZING GRACE!

Hope for Nigeria & Africa

by Princeton Waters

In November 2019 over 40 people, mostly pastors, joined our first Nigerian Grace Conference, which was facilitated by me, Pastor Princeton, with teaching by Pastor Richard Church. Since the conference, I can state that there is HOPE FOR NIGERIA and AFRICA in respect to the Grace Doctrine and Rightly Dividing. Note the wonderful feedback from those who attended:

-“We thank God for what we have learned, currently we are deleting what is wrong from what we used to know and we are replacing old things with this Grace Doctrine.”

-“The Grace Doctrine is true, even though it is new to some of us. It is the right thing; we are behind you.”

-“We are trying to organize ourselves to start a Grace study group here in Abuja. We will invite you, Princeton, to come and help us.”

Please keep Pastor Princeton and his ministry in prayer. Contact info:

Princeton Waters

P.O. Box 935, Jos, Nigeria. 930271

princetonwaters@yandex.com

phone +234-903-171-2256

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Request subscriptions/past issues or forward questions to the writers/editors, Brian & Deborah Johnson: Lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com